

III. REMARKS

1. Claims 1-13 and 15-18 remain in the application. Claims 19-21 are newly added. Claims 1, 12, and 15 have been amended to further clarify the features of the invention.

2. Claims 1-13 and 15-18 are not obvious over Grover et al. (US 5,818,437, hereinafter "Grover") in view of Yu et al. (US 5,852,414, hereinafter "Yu").

The combination of Grover and Yu fails to disclose or suggest performing a first comparison of a first candidate group of alphabetic characters to a storage of words of a defined language, and to accept one of the alphabetic characters of the first candidate group of alphabetic characters as a desired character if the first comparison is successful, as recited by claims 1 and 12.

In Grover, a user provides a sequence of keystrokes and then strikes a delimiting "select" key to delimit a word. The keystroke sequence is then processed with a dictionary and words which match the keystroke sequence are presented to the user for selection. Thus, there is no comparison of a candidate group of characters to a storage of words and an acceptance of one of the characters as a desired character if the first comparison is successful.

Yu discloses a four way switching button that performs switch closures to designate characters. As such, Yu has no disclosure related to comparing a candidate character group to a storage of words.

At least for these reasons, the combination of Grover and Yu fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Applicants' independent claims and therefore fails to render claims 1 and 12 unpatentable.

Claims 2-11, 13, and 15-18 depend from claims 1 or 12 and therefore are also patentable over the combination of Grover and Yu.

2. New claim 19 is directed to a method for recognizing a character from a pressed key on a keyboard. The method includes selecting a character to be evaluated as a result of a pressure distribution on a key, performing a first comparison of the evaluation character to a character string, and automatically accepting the evaluation character as the recognized character if the first comparison results in the evaluation character being approved. The method further comprises performing a second comparison of the evaluation character to the character string and to words and rules of a language and automatically accepting the evaluation character as the recognized character if the second comparison results in the first character being approved, and performing a third comparison of the evaluation character to at least one of sentence context, syntax, structure and language and automatically accepting the evaluation character if the third comparison results in the first character being approved.

New claim 20 depends from claim 19 and further comprises automatically selecting a second character of the plurality of characters as the evaluation character if the first, second, and third comparisons do not result in approval, and repeating the method of claim 19.

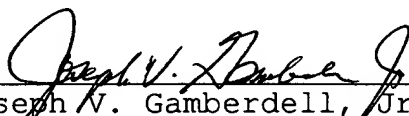
New claim 21 depends from claim 20 and includes asking a user to verify one of the plurality of characters if the first, second, and third comparisons do not result in approval.


None of the prior art references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the features of claims 19-21.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record, and are in proper form for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 16-1350.

Respectfully submitted,


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